

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

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R 300845Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2369

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 0585

NOFORN

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PFOR MY

SUBJ: LOCAL PRESS LAUDS PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO JAKARTA

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 0556 (DTG 300536Z JAN 76) (NOTAL)

1. PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN ONN RETURNED TO
KUALA LUMPUR JAN 29 FROM WHAT GOVERNMENT-INFLUENCED
"NEW STRAITS TIMES" (NST) DESCRIBED AS "HIGHLY
SUCCESSFUL" TWO-DAY VISIT TO JAKARTA. IN FRONT
PAGE REPORT BOLDLY HEADLINED "HUSSEIN CHALKS ONE UP
AS PREMIER," NST CITED HUSSEIN ONN'S "GRATIFICATION"
FOR OPPORTUNITY MEET WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND
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VOWED TO "STRENGTHEN CLOSE RELATIONS ALREADY
FORGED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES." NST

DESDRIBED PM AS BEING "IN A CONFIDENT AND BUOYANT MOOD" ON HIS RETURN AND SAID THAT "SOURCES CLOSE TO MALAYSIAN SIDE" TERMED TALKS "FRANK, CORDIAL AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL."

2. ON SECURITY ASPECTS OF DISCUSSIONS, HUSSEIN ONN TOLD REPORTERS COOPERATION IN GENERAL IN MILITARY MATTERS HAS IMPORTANT ROLE IN STRENGTHENING NATIONAL RESILIENCE (I.E., PUTTING OWN HOUSE IN ORDER TO ASSURE DOMESTIC STABILITY AND POPULAR BACKING TO,ENABLE

GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND TO VARIOUS CHALLENGES), AND INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA IN PARTICULAR HAD "HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL" RECORD IN SUCH COOPERATION AGAINST COMMUNIST TERRORISTS IN THE SARAWAK-KALIMANTAN (INDONESIA) BORDER. NONETHELESS HE INDICATED MALAYSIA WAS DISINCLINED SEE ASEAN TURNED INTO A MILITARY ALLIANCE, WHICH WOULD BE A DEVIATION FROM "ORIGINAL OBJECTIVES OF ASEAN WHICH ARE PRIMARILY FOR ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF REGION."

3. ON SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE INVITATION TO JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND TO ATTEND ASEAN SUMMIT IN BALI NEXT MONTH, PM REPLIED THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE DECIDED BY THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN PATTAYA, THAILAND, FEB 9 AND 10.

4. COMMENT: GOM UNDOUBTEDLY HIGHLY PLEASED BY RED CARPET TREATMENT LAID OUT BY INDONESIANS AND VIEW VISIT, ALBEIT BRIEF, AS OPPORTUNITY ESTABLISH PERSONAL RAPPORT BETWEEN DATUK HUSSEIN ONN AND SUHARTO SUCH AS EXISTED BETWEEN SUHARTO AND RAZAK. FACT FIRST VISIT ABROAD BY NEW PM WAS MADE TO JAKARTA DEMONSTRATES IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE TIES WITH INDONESIA AS FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT OF MALAYSIAN
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FOREIGN POLICY. LAVISH PRESS PLAY ON VISIT ALSO USEFUL IN DOMESTIC CONTEXT TO SHOW HUSSEIN ONN ASSUMING AN ACTIVE FOREIGN RELATIONS ROLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF BECOMING PM.

5. WITH REGARD TO "INVITATION" TO JAPANESE PREMIER MIKI TO ATTEND BALI CONFERENCE, AT LUNCHEON FOR INR/REA DIRECTOR HOROWITZ TODAY, FOUR SENIOR GOM FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS EXPRESSED BELIEVE THAT THE REPORTED INVITATION WAS A

JAPANESE INITIATIVE AGREED TO, PERHAPS AFTER
THE FACT, BY THAI FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI. FOR
ITS PART, THEY SAID, THE GOM HAS STRONG
RESERVATIONS REGARDING PARTICIPATION OF ANY
NON-ASEAN NATION IN THE ORGANIZATIONS'S
MEETINGS BECAUSE THIS WOULD LEAVE THE DOOR
OPEN TO REQUESTS FROM OTHER NATIONS IN GREATER
ASIA, SUCH AS INDIA, TO BE INVITED. (THEY
WERE PROBABLY TOO POLITE TO SAY THAT IT ALSO
MIGHT ENCOURAGE THE THREE GREAT POWERS OR THEIR
SURROGATES TO SEEK ADMISSION TO ASEAN COUNCILS.)
WHEN IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE JAPANESE WERE
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO REPLACE ASPAC AS A VENUE
FOR HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER EAST
ASIAN COUNTRIES, THE MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS
OBSERVED THAT THE REGULAR ASEAN-JAPAN ECONOMIC
CONSULTATIONS SHOULD SUFFICE AND THAT ANYTHING
BROADER WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS, CITING A SOUTH
KOREAN FEELER TO BE INVITED TO BALI.
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